

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 20, 2010

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The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

We write in regards to the ongoing litigation in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) 2003 and 2007 media ownership rules. We recognize that the FCC is currently conducting its quadrennial review of media ownership rules and that legal certainty with respect to the status of rules promulgated under prior Chairmen is important as the Commission moves forward in its process. We want to take this opportunity to remind you of the Senate's interest in public interest limits for media ownership and that the current Commission is under no obligation to follow the footsteps of its predecessors.

The last two FCC attempts to weaken the media ownership rules were met with considerable Congressional opposition. We were greatly concerned about the media ownership rules that the FCC issued on June 2, 2003 and the resulting consolidation they would have allowed. On September 16, 2003 the Senate passed a bipartisan resolution of disapproval that rejected those rules. The Third Circuit Court of Appeals shared many of our concerns and the FCC was forced to revisit some of those rules, including the rule on the common ownership of a daily newspaper and television station in the same media market.

In 2007, the FCC Chairman pushed through a rule that presumed that in large media markets, a newspaper and broadcast combination was in the public interest. The Senate disagreed that any greater media cross-ownership should be presumed to be in the public interest. Despite our calls for a deliberative and transparent process, the public was given only 28 days to comment on this major rule change. The Senate passed a bipartisan resolution of disapproval of these rules on May 15, 2008.

The strength of our democracy depends on a citizenry informed by local and diverse voices in our media. While Americans increasingly seek out news online, local newspapers and broadcast stations continue to be the dominant source of news and information. As you consider future action, we urge you not to forget the Senate's interest in maintaining the public interest goals of localism, diversity, and competition in our media.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Olympia Snowe", is written over a horizontal line.



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

September 27, 2010

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe  
United States Senate  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Snowe:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's 2010 Quadrennial Review of its broadcast ownership rules and policies. I appreciate knowing of your view that the past two Commission Reviews lacked proper foundations for their final conclusions and failed to provide processes that permitted sufficient public participation.

The 2010 Review process currently is underway and has been designed to be inclusive, transparent, and data-driven. During the past year, the Commission sponsored eight public workshops across the nation to encourage public discussion and create a framework for the 2010 Review's *Notice of Inquiry (NOI)*. The *NOI* itself provided 30 days for comments and 45 days for reply comments. Now that the comment period is closed, the Commission's staff is reviewing these submissions and available data to develop a comprehensive record.

Last week, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government granted the Commission's reprogramming request to provide an additional \$1,000,000 for studies and data collection related to local media markets and how their structures affect the quantity, usage, and development of media content. These funds will permit the Commission to focus on a relevant performance metric regarding one or more of the goals of competition, localism, and diversity. The completed studies will be subject to peer review and made available for public comment prior to inclusion in the 2010 Quadrennial Review.

The challenge inherent in completing the 2010 Review is to make broadcast ownership rules consistent with today's technology and media marketplace, while protecting and promoting core public interest policies. Competition, localism, and diversity remain as relevant today as when Congress established them in the Communications Act of 1934. The Commission's broadcast ownership rules and policies need to promote these values in the context of actual market conditions, and I am committed to ensuring that the 2010 Review reflects this goal.

The Honorable Olympia J. Snowe

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Your letter will be made part of the record in the 2010 Quadrennial Review proceeding and given careful consideration as the Commission finalizes this matter. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

September 27, 2010

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
United States Senate  
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's 2010 Quadrennial Review of its broadcast ownership rules and policies. I appreciate knowing of your view that the past two Commission Reviews lacked proper foundations for their final conclusions and failed to provide processes that permitted sufficient public participation.

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Your letter will be made part of the record in the 2010 Quadrennial Review proceeding and given careful consideration as the Commission finalizes this matter. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line and a small dot.

Julius Genachowski





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

September 27, 2010

The Honorable Byron L. Dorgan  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dorgan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's 2010 Quadrennial Review of its broadcast ownership rules and policies. I appreciate knowing of your view that the past two Commission Reviews lacked proper foundations for their final conclusions and failed to provide processes that permitted sufficient public participation.

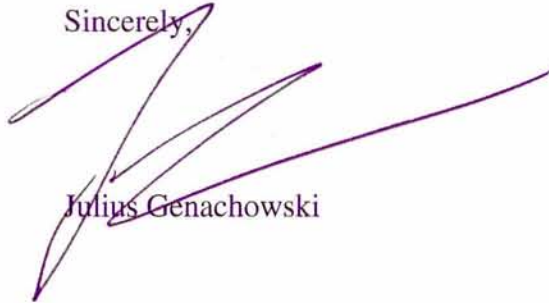
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several fluid, overlapping strokes that form a stylized representation of the name Julius Genachowski.

Julius Genachowski